

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-05

IO-04 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 SCI-02 MC-01 AEC-05

PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:NEA/P:GSHERMAN:10/L6/74

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SCI-MR.SIEVERING

----- 017010

O 1,0040Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O11652:

TAGS:TECH, IN

SUBJECT:INDIAN SPACE PROGRAM: CONGRESSIONAL ALLEGATION

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

1. REP. STANFORD PARRIS HAS PUT OUT RELEASE WHICH OCTOBER 17 WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS MAY USE THAT INDIA DEVELOPING NUCLEAR MISSILES IN GUISE SPACE PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO PARRIS, YOU CONFIRMED LAST SUMMER TO HIM THAT INDIA DEVELOPING ROCKETS WHICH WOULD HAVE EITHER PEACEFUL OR MILITARY CHARACTER.

2. WHEN CONTACTED BY STAR-NEWS FOR COMMENT ON PARRIS CHARGE, DEPT SPOKESMAN STATED: "THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE INDIAN SPACE PROGRAM IS THE PEACEFUL EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE. IT IS OF COURSE COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAPABILITY NEEDED TO LAUNCH A SATELLITE IS THE SAME
CAPABILITY NEEDED TO LAUNCH A MISSILE. THAT IS WHAT
AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN WAS REFERRING TO WHEN HE SAW
CONGRESSMAN PARRIS DURING THE SUMMER HERE. THE AMBASSADOR
AT NO TIME STATED THAT INDIA WAS DEVELOPING NUCLEAR
MISSILES. THE INDIANS DO NOT EXPECT TO LAUNCH THEIR
OWN SATELLITE FOR SEVERAL YEARS."

3. IF SUBJECT COMES UP AT OCT 17 NOON PRESS BRIEFING,
WE WOULD PLAN USE SAME GENERAL LINE. WE WILL CABLE
YOU TEXT OF ANY STAR-NEWSSTORY. UNDERSTAND PARRIS
CHARGE TRIGGERED BY PRESS ACCOUNT ON RECENT STATEMENT
BY KC PANT. INGERSOLL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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